

FISCAL NOTE
HB 196 - SB 1595

March 8, 2005

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires proof of U.S. citizenship to vote and additional information on voter registration cards. Requires the administrator of elections to reject any application for registration that is not accompanied by satisfactory evidence of U.S. citizenship and requires permanent registration records include a signed statement by the voter attesting that the voter is a citizen. Requires any agency that is responsible for administration of state and local public benefits to verify the identity of each applicant, verify the immigration status of any applicant, and make a written report to federal immigration authorities for any violation of federal immigration law. Failure to report violations of immigration law is a Class A misdemeanor.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$37,100 One -Time
Exceeds \$500,000 Recurring

Other Fiscal Impact – Increase Federal Expenditures – Exceeds \$600,000

Assumptions:

- Replacements of all voter registration forms and motor voter registration forms totaling \$37,100.
- The Department of Health would have to require verification of immigration status for some primary patients seen in local health services if a person leaves without proper medical care. Fear of being reported to immigration authorities, even though the person is eligible to receive other health care services, could result in increase in TB, STD, HIV/AIDS diseases affecting the wider population, not just illegal immigrants.
- The Bureau of TennCare could incur an increase of state and federal expenditures to provide emergency room care to illegal immigrants who did not receive care from the local health department and to provide care to the whole population affected by communicable diseases.
- Could result in decreased federal funding if requirements are in violation of federal law.
- There could be a significant increase in expenditures to train employees on the new procedures and to reprint materials with the change of appropriate forms of identification for state agencies.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director